

House Resolution 31

By: Representative Maddox of the 172nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Robert Earl (Bobby) Walden and dedicating a road in his honor; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Bobby Walden, the "Big Toe from Cairo" was born in Boston, Georgia, on
4 March 9, 1938; and

5 WHEREAS, he was an all-state halfback at Cairo and also lettered in basketball and track;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, he went to the University of Georgia in 1957 and was part of a Bulldog football
8 team that included teammates Fran Tarkenton, Fred Brown, Bill Godfrey, Pat Dye, and
9 Charlie Britt; and

10 WHEREAS, at the conclusion of his college career, Bobby joined the Edmonton Eskimos,
11 and he led the team in punting, rushing, and receiving in 1961 and 1962; and

12 WHEREAS, he then joined the Minnesota Vikings of the National Football League and led
13 the NFL in punting in 1965 with an average of 46.4 yards per kick; and

14 WHEREAS, Bobby was traded to the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1967 and continued as one of the
15 premier punters in the league for the next decade; and

16 WHEREAS, he was an All-Pro selection in 1974, and he punted for Pittsburgh's Super Bowl
17 championship teams in 1974 and 1975; and

18 WHEREAS, Bobby has returned to his roots to live in Cairo and Bainbridge since his
19 retirement from professional football in 1977; and

20 WHEREAS, Bobby has been married for 44 years to the former Scarlett Bates of Bainbridge,
21 and they have one son, Bobby Walden, Jr.; and

22 WHEREAS, given the many contributions and honors he has bestowed upon the State of
23 Georgia, it is the desire of the General Assembly to find a concrete expression for its
24 gratitude, and it is only fitting and proper that Bobby Walden be recognized for his
25 outstanding accomplishments on and off the football field.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 GEORGIA that the members thereof commend Robert Earl (Bobby) Walden for his
28 admirable accomplishments and for his significant contributions to the honor of his home
29 state.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of U.S. Highway 84, in Decatur County,
31 Georgia, from the Grady County line west to the traffic light at Whigham Dairy Road, within
32 the limits of the Wiregrass Georgia Parkway, is dedicated as the Bobby Walden Highway.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
34 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facility named in this
35 resolution.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Robert Earl (Bobby)
38 Walden in recognition of his accomplishments and outstanding contributions to the State of
39 Georgia.